

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 (ISO) W

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R 151040Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5167

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6941

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS VIEWS OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

1. AHRAM HEADLINES JULY 15 THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPORT ON EUROPEAN VISIT TO WHITE HOUSE "REFLECTS LIMITED HOPE" FOR RECHING NEW MIDDLE EAST INTERIM AGREEMENT. AKHBAR HEADLINES KISSINGER COMMENT THAT "HOPE HAS DWINDLED IN ATTAINING FAST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL". ALL DAILIES CITE HOPE IN WASHINGTON THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ WILL ARRIVE AT END OF WEEK WITH NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS AND MENTION THAT, ALTHOUGH ISRAELI PM RABIN HAS STATED THAT SIX MONTHS TO YEAR MAY BE NECESSARY FOR NEW ACCORD, OFFICIAL SOURCES IN JERUSALEM HAVE COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT NEW AGREEMENT MATTER OF ONLY "SEVERAL WEEKS". REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM THAT ISRAELIS WILL ASK FOR SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF UN OBSERVER FORCE ARE CITED WITHOUT COMMENT.

2. AHRAM CARRIES GREATEST DETAIL ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS, CITING REUTERS REPORT THAT THREE-MAN ISRAELI STUDY COMMITTEE (PM RABIN, FONMIN ALLON, AND DEFMIN PERES) WILL INSIST ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI LINE 2 MILTES (3 KILOMETERS) INSIDE EASTERN ENTRANCE OF

SINAI PASSES AND HAARETZ REPORT THAT US HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ISRAELIS WITH 1.8 BILLION DOLLARS IN EVENT OF AGREEMENT. AHRAM ALSO CITES HAARETZ COMMENT THAT RABIN OBTAINED PROMISE IN BONN THAT US WOULD BEAR COST OF SUPPLY ISRAELI WITH PETROLEUM FOR PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AFTER ACCORD.

3. AHRAM ALSO CARRIES FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL BY ALI HAMDI AL-GAMAL, CASTIGATING ISRAEL FOR DELAYING TACTICS. GAMAL STATES THAT ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON EGYPTIAN DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY AND END TO ARAB BOYCOTT PRIMARILY REPLAY OF MARCH 1975 SCENARIO, AS EGYPT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO COMPROMISE ON THESE ISSUES POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE. EDITORIAL ALSO ACCUSES ISRAELIS OF MANEUVERING IN REGARD TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL LINE. GAMAL CONCLUDES WITH COMMENT THAT EGYPT WELL AWARE OF ARAB RESPONSIBILITIES AND NOT ABOUT TO SELL OUT ARAB CAUSE FOR PURELY NATIONAL REASONS, NO MATTER WHAT SOME PERSISTENT CRITICS OF EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION MAY THINK.

4. AKBAR CITES WITHOUT COMMENT NEWSWEEK REPORT THAT MANY SENIOR US OFFICIALS CURRENTLY PRESSING SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ABANDON STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUE AND TO ANNOUNCE OVERALL PLAN FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WHICH COULD BE URGED ON ALL PARTIES. NEWSWEEK STATEMENT THAT UNDERSECRETARY SISCO PRINCIPAL HOLD-OUT FOR STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS ALSO QUOTED.

5. GUMHURIYYA ATTEMPTS TO DOWN PLAY ENTIRE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BY BURYING ARTICLE ON BOTTOM OF FRONT PAGE, WITH HEADLINE SUGGESTING ONLY THAT CURRENT IMPASS MAKING "SPEEDY" AGREEMENT ON NEW ACCORD DIFFICULT.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HEADLINES REFLECT EGYPTIAN IMPATIENCE OVER ISRAELI DELAYS IN REGARD TO NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI, TONE OF ARTICLES NOT OVERLY PESSIMISTIC. EGYPTIAN PRESS, WHILE CHARGING ISRAELIS WITH DELAYING TACTICS, APPEARS STILL OPTIMISTIC THAT US CAN MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN NEGOTIATIONS.
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